

The background of the page is a photograph of a young child lying on their back on a light-colored wooden floor. The child's head is at the bottom of the frame, and their eyes are closed. Their hands are raised, holding two large, red, heart-shaped cutouts. The child is wearing a light green t-shirt with a pattern of small black icons, including a hand. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is oriented diagonally across the center of the image.

# Discipling A Child's Heart

Part 1



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Discipling A Child's Heart is a two part training series for both parents (grandparents, guardians, aunts and uncles) as well as kids ministry volunteers. It's important that everyone completes this course in order - part 1 prior followed by part 2. For more information about part 2, go to the Kidswise Academy website. Part 2 can be completed on the same day as part 1, or at a later date.

Notes for the person facilitating this training are written in blue. It's important to read through all exercises and all blue text instructions when preparing to facilitate this training.

All videos can be previewed prior to the training session but be aware that this course has a two month limited access. So the purchasing of the course, the previewing of the material and the running of the training needs to be completed within a two month period.

The timing of each exercise is a guide only. For example, a larger group may need more time in sharing ideas from multiple groups after a brainstorming exercise.

Allocate three hours for this training, with a thirty minute break after the first hour and a half.

#### Set Up:

- Set up chairs around tables (ideal 6-7 per table)
- Cover tables with paper
- Place coloured markers on each table
- Place wrapped lollies on tables as treats (optional)
- Set up a display table of quality resources (see the Kidswise Recommended Resources List - Appendage #2)

#### Introduction:

- Welcome people.
- Indicate timing of breaks and essential information for all in attendance (toilet locations, emergency exits...).
- Begin by committing the day to God in prayer.
- Encourage everyone to introduce themselves to those in their group prior to beginning Exercise #1.

# The Primary Disciplers

**EXERCISE #1** (Q1 individual exercise, Q2-3 group exercises, 10 mins. group discussion, 5 minutes sharing)

1. Who does the Bible say are the best people to disciple children?  
Select the best option from the list below.

- Kids Church Leaders
- Christian Teachers in schools (incl. chaplains, religious education teachers...)
- Mother / Father
- Grandparents
- Aunts / Uncles
- Pastors

2. What does a child need most from their parents?

3. What do parents need most from the church in regards to their children?

After 10 mins. ask people to vote on the answer to question number one.  
Answer is given in the first video.

Ask each group to share one of their answers from question 2 and 3.

**PLAY VIDEO:** Introduction

Read the following out loud before beginning Exercise #2.

*Family is God's idea.*

*The family, within the family of God, is the place where children are to be raised and nurtured.*

*Every parent has been given the God-given privilege of speaking God's truth into the life of every one of their children.*

**EXERCISE #2** (Q1 individual exercise, Q2-3 group exercises, 10 mins.)

1. The following exercise asks for your perception of your church's general health when it comes to supporting parents as they disciple their children. Select the option that most represents your church.

Every year we intentionally provide training for our parents.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

We regularly pray as a church family for our parents.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

Applications for parents are regularly included in our adult small group Bible studies.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

Applications for parents are part of the diet of applications in weekly sermons.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

Quality resources for parents to use with their children are reviewed and promoted in our Sunday gatherings each term.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

Our church provides practical support for parents when a baby is born.

never - rarely - occasionally - regularly - always

2. Stop and pray as a group. Praise God for the area/s your church is going well in.
3. As a group, note down any areas you think could be the beginning of a helpful conversation with your church's leadership.

Collect these areas of concern from each group for future exploration post the training.

### EXERCISE #3 (individual exercise, 2 mins.)

1. Predict the top two reasons parents give as to why they fail to disciple their own children.
  - Unsure how to do it
  - Their personal relationship with God is not great
  - Confused as to which children's Bibles to are best
  - They feel like a hypocrite
  - Afraid of the questions their children might ask
  - Time poor
  - Do not have age appropriate resources

Read the following out loud before watching the following video.

*Research indicated that the top two reasons identified by parents are - they're time poor and they're unsure how to do it. Some parents are choosing to abdicate their God-given role to disciple their children to the Sunday kids leaders and the Christian school.*

*What is the church's role in encouraging parents to take up their God-given privilege of speaking God's truth into the lives of their children?*

*What is the parent's role in looking to the local church for support in discipling their children?*

**PLAY VIDEO:** The Primary Disciplers

#### THE PRIMARY DISCIPLES - TALK OUTLINE

Go make disciples

Parents = primary shepherds

Failure to shepherd

- Too busy
- Unsure how to do it